

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, immediately after the title, please delete the present heading and replace as follows:

~~Description~~ Background of the Invention

On page 2, line 17, please insert the following heading:

--Summary of the Invention--

On page 2, lines 18 through 20, please delete this paragraph as follows:

~~The realization of this object, including advantageous embodiments and further developments of the invention, result from the content of the patent claims that follow this description.~~

On page 4, line 14, please insert the following heading:

--Brief Description of the Drawings--

On page 4, line 18, please insert the following heading:

--Description of Specific Embodiments--.

On page 7, after line 21, please insert the following two new paragraphs:

--The specification incorporates by reference the disclosure of German priority document 202 13 669.8 filed September 2, 2002 and PCT/DE2003/002896 filed September 2, 2003.

The present invention is, of course, in no way restricted to the specific disclosure of the specification and drawings, but also encompasses any modifications within the scope of the appended claims.—

In addition, please add to the specification, the following abstract:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A driving axle for a vehicle driven by an electric motor disposed on a driven motor shaft. Drive shafts are coupled to the motor shaft via the interposition of a reduction transmission stage and a following differential transmission. As part of the transmission stage an externally toothed

sun pinion is disposed on the motor shaft, which is mounted in motor shaft bearings connected to a gearbox and absorbing radial and axial forces. A sleeve is disposed between, and supported on opposite sides against, the motor shaft bearings and sun pinion. A securing device is disposed on the free end of the motor shaft for fixing the sun pinion against the sleeve.

Gears of the transmission stage mesh with the sun pinion, which together with the gears are embodied as helical gears having a force component acting in the direction of the motor shaft bearings.